

period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, the leader will determine at a later time today the actual time of convening tomorrow. But I am reminded that Members should have their second-degree amendments, to the amendments that have already been filed, filed before the 9:30 a.m. vote tomorrow. I announce on behalf of the leadership, there will be no further votes today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SNOWE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN OF THE YEAR, DR. ERNEST TOMASI

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, earlier this year, the Sunday Rutland Herald and Sunday Times Argus had an article about a fellow Montpelier neighbor, Dr. Ernest Tomasi. Dr. Tomasi was named the distinguished citizen of the year by the Montpelier Rotary Club.

Madam President, I have known Dr. Tomasi my whole life. And my parents knew him even before I did. He is a remarkable man, and probably one of the last examples of a country doctor, even though he has always practiced in our capital city.

Dr. Tomasi, a man very proud of his Italian heritage, as was my late mother, was one who would make sure that everybody who needed a physician received that physician's care.

So many times people would come to him telling him that they could not afford a doctor's care but needed a doctor's care. They always got it. It would be remarkable if somebody were able to tally up all the people of central Vermont who were cared for by him but never received a bill because they could not pay for it.

I also think of the number of times as a youngster seeing him going out making house calls, and then even in later years, even after I became a U.S. Senator, seeing Dr. Tomasi with his battered bag heading off for house calls.

It was my privilege to see him in 1994, when he went back for the 50th anniversary of D-Day. He had landed on Normandy as a young medic and, as he said, was one of the only ones who went ashore without guns. He also tells some pretty horrific stories of what happened to the people who were landing. It was a mark of his bravery that even though he earned the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, and a Presidential Citation, this was never a part of his conversation, and only reluctantly did he go back for the 50th anniversary.

My wife and I had a chance to talk with him on different occasions while he was there. He was one of the brave,

brave people President Clinton and General Shalikashvili and others referred to at that celebration.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the article "Longtime Doctor Named Rotary's Citizen Of Year" be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

LONGTIME DOCTOR NAMED ROTARY'S CITIZEN OF YEAR

(By Art Edelstein)

Dr. Ernest Tomasi's medical office on Barre Street could well be the setting for a Norman Rockwell painting: The suite of rooms does not sparkle in medicinal white, there are no secretaries behind glass partitions, and the examining tables are from a bygone era.

But Tomasi can be forgiven the lack of high technology. Now semi-retired, he has practiced medicine locally for 50 years, delivering at least 1,000 babies. Along the way, he raised six of his own children, treated many patients without taking a fee and contributed to innumerable volunteer efforts.

His career has not gone unnoticed. Earlier this month, Tomasi received the Montpelier Rotary Club's Distinguished Citizen of the Year award for his many years of service to the community.

Tomasi, who turns 83 at the end of February, is a cheery man who doesn't boast about his formidable medical career and his years in the armed services.

"I think the fact that he has continued to practice medicine and is an old-style doctor interested in his patients first made him a great candidate," said Rotary President Roderic Sherman. "He is an outstanding example of good deeds."

"He has been providing services to anyone needing medical help for 50 years," said David Pinkham, who chaired the selection committee. "Dr. Tomasi provides services for barter, or free. He is an example of somebody doing something for others."

A Montpelier native, Tomasi graduated from St. Michael's high school on Barre Street, and from the University of Vermont medical school in 1942. After interning for a year in Waterbury, Conn., where he met his wife, he joined the U.S. Army.

Tomasi doesn't like to talk much about his role as a member of the D-Day invasion force that landed on the Normandy coast of France on June 6, 1944. He said his team of medics were brave men. "They were the only ones who went ashore without guns," he said.

Tomasi earned the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart and the Presidential Citation.

Tomasi travelled back to France to celebrate the 50th anniversary of D-Day in 1994. The trip, paid for by his colleagues at the Central Vermont Hospital, brought back painful memories of his war years. "It was so horrible. I saw a lot of soldiers die," he said.

"I didn't want to go back to Omaha Beach; there were too many bad memories."

But there were some better memories of his tour of duty in Europe that he can smile about. In 1944, after the Allies began defeating the Germans, Tomasi and his unit liberated the first town on the German border near the Elbe River. There he delivered a baby girl. Years later he received a letter from that child when she became an adult.

"He doesn't talk much, especially about his trip to Europe in 1994," said his wife of 50 years, Barbara Tomasi. "He landed and all these boys around him were killed. Going back to the beach and cemetery were emotional."

While the war was an unpleasant experience, Tomasi did not shirk his responsibilities to his fellow veterans. He has been an active member of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars and has served as the Post doctor for 30 years.

After the war, Tomasi returned to Montpelier to practice medicine. He has witnessed many changes in the medical profession in his half-century of practice.

"It's all changing too fast," he said. "I wish I could live long enough to see how it comes out."

A surgeon, he no longer performs operations but continues to assist in them.

Tomasi began scaling back on his practice in 1994. Before then, his wife said, he kept a grueling schedule.

"He would work from 8 in the morning until 11 or midnight with a supper break," she said. "He did this until three years ago when he cut back on patients. He still makes occasional house calls."

Adera White, a friend and former nurse, said Tomasi is a special doctor.

"Through medicine, he's done much. He would treat people and not get paid; for years he never sent bills to any of his patients," she said. "Whoever felt they could pay, paid him. He wasn't in it for the money, that's for sure."

While Tomasi said he is thinking about retiring from medicine, his wife doubts he will quit his life's work.

"This is the only thing he has; he is devoted to his patients," she said. "He loves sports, but never had any hobbies. * * * I don't think he will ever retire."

TRIBUTE TO WALTER "PEANUT" KENNEDY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Walter "Peanut" Kennedy, the late Speaker of the House of Representatives came from the district of Chelsea, VT. They used a version of Vermont's old mountain rule. In a local form, mountain rule came from the town's unwritten agreement that State representatives alternate between the sides of the mountain that divided the town at every biennial election. It was about as good a reason for term limits as many I have heard argued on this floor in recent years.

It followed the real mountain rule in Vermont which alternated Governors from one side of the Green Mountains to the other side. Madam President, the Governor would come from the eastern side of the mountains in one election cycle and then from the western side in the next. Of course, they were all Republicans so it worked out very well throughout those years.

Since the town was overwhelmingly Republican and the candidate from either side of the mountain could not hope to succeed under any other party preference—the tradition more or less held until reapportionment of the legislature along the one man-one vote decision of the U.S. Supreme Court changed the nature of Vermont's system forever.

I preface my remarks today with this brief history so that you can appreciate the background from which this rough hewn, shrewd, humorous, and eminently fair gentleman rose to become a legislator, Speaker of the

House, and his party's candidate for Governor in 1974.

With Peanut Kennedy's passing, we close the book on a period in Vermont when character, common sense, and honesty were alone sufficient to insure personal triumph and political success.

Peanut sold used cars—and they weren't all good cars. He would tell his customers—especially enthusiastic young farm boys who were making their first major purchase with hard earned money—to look beyond the flashy chrome and white wall tires. If necessary, he would further curb their enthusiasm by suggesting the vehicle had an estimated lifespan of the distance to the grocery store a half mile down the road.

Those were cars he kept on the lot only to have the pleasure of selling them to folks like you and me who could afford a lesson in the perils of used car negotiations.

"You don't want this car," he would finally tell a local customer and move him toward another part of the lot.

Peanut, rising to the chairmanship of the House Highway Committee, then Speaker and finally rewarded as his party's gubernatorial candidate, was rarely addressed as Walter. He retained his earthy sense of humor and Yankee mannerisms, offensive to the few—loved by the many. He was an antecedent of political correctness—fixed in his ways, colorful in his language, and prone to startle constituents, legislators, Governors and lobbyists with the frankness of his responses.

He hated ad hoc committees which he said were merely ways for political leaders to transfer decision making responsibility to another body.

"Ad hoc," he once challenged a leader of his own party on the House floor, "Sounds like someone clearing his throat."

He once publicly described a Governor, who was concerned over a prolonged and politically debilitating debate over enacting his proposal for a sales tax as "nervous as a whore in church," over the prospects of passing his legislation. Kennedy never doubted the tax would be enacted, once the talking was over and the nervous legislators regained their courage to an unpopular, but necessary broad based tax to finance State government programs.

He was never a man to go off the record, he was never a man to go against his word.

When he ran for Governor in 1974 he traveled through southern Vermont extensively for the first time in years and became aware of the change taking place as a result of a revolution in transportation systems—many of which he had helped put in motion himself from Montpelier.

I think it was the first time he realized that Vermont was changing so dramatically from the community or farms and small, self-governing communities that settled problems at town meetings and pot luck suppers.

"It's not Vermont anymore," he told friends. The visit seemed to inhibit his

candidacy and he failed to give Vermont a spirited campaign against a popular incumbent.

I traveled with Peanut Kennedy when he ran for Governor in 1974, and is probably an indication of the bipartisan nature of the man. Even though he was running for Governor on the Republican ticket, I for the Senate on the Democratic ticket, we would have occasions just because we wanted to be in each other's company that we would ride together from one function to another.

He had his big old black Imperial. I would hop in the car with him. Somebody would drive my car along behind. And I would be laughing so hard by the time I would get to the next place, I could barely remember my own lines as he would tell one story after another.

At home, with his wife Sylvia, he was a very private man and devoted husband. Vermonters shared his grief over the tragic death of his son in a fire. After the election in 1973, Kennedy returned to his business and quietly retired from the political arena which had taken him so far. But the State had changed and Peanut's beliefs and principles were too deeply ingrained.

Out State has lost a great public servant, and to those of us fortunate enough to have known him a great friend as well.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENTS—S. 672

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, I wish to modify the previous statement I have made. And I now ask unanimous consent that the vote on the cloture motion take place at 10 a.m., tomorrow.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Hearing no objection, without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, the Senate will be convening at 9:30—the majority leader will handle that part of it—but I ask unanimous consent that the time between the convening at 9:30 and 10 o'clock be divided equally between the Senator from West Virginia and myself.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that second-degree amendments must be filed before the hour of 10 a.m., before the hour of the cloture vote, that is, the second-degree amendments to the amendments that have been filed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. STEVENS. So we are clear, now we will stay in a period of routine morning business, Madam President, under the previous unanimous-consent agreement until the leader decides to go through the closing procedure.

But just to make certain, that is the order of the Senate now, that we are in morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. STEVENS. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, would you indicate what the pending business is.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is in morning business.

SUICIDE IN AMERICA

Mr. REID. Madam President, in the wrap-up, in the final business that will take place here today, Senate Resolution 84 will pass. This is a resolution that deals with suicide prevention. Currently, there are 31,000 suicides every year in the United States; 83 people a day kill themselves.

I made some remarks earlier today that will be in the RECORD of the Senate on this subject. I just want to express my appreciation to those that are sponsoring this resolution. It is a bipartisan resolution. Senator COVERDELL has been the lead Republican on this issue. Madam President, he is the lead sponsor on this because in his State there is a very courageous man, a man named Jerry Weyrauch. Jerry is leading a national effort in this country to draw attention to this issue. He is doing it after having gone through the trauma of losing his daughter by suicide.

Suicide is something that affects many people. As indicated, 31,000 people a year kill themselves in this country. In my Senate office here in Washington, about 2 months ago, during a period of 4 weeks, three of my employees had relatives that killed themselves. One was an 11-year-old boy that hanged himself.

Suicide is something we have learned can be avoided. I became vocal about suicide after having participated in a hearing before the Senate Aging Committee last year. Mike Wallace, a person those of us in Government hate to get a call from, appeared before our Aging Committee. The hearing was on senior depression. Mike Wallace, in my opinion, Madam President, showed a lot of courage when he came before our